

Central Falls School District Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2014 at 6 PM
Ella Risk Conference Room

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Chair Anna Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. Present were Sonia Grace, Stephanie Gonzalez, Diosa Martinez, Ana-Cecilia Rosado and Hugo Figueroa. Carlos Tobon arrived at 6:12 PM
- II. Pledge
- III. Ms. Morales, Chair, acknowledged the presence of a small group of parents with Ms. Keiser who informed the Trustees of a June 12th celebration in the streets of Central Falls honoring all the various elements of student and parent engagement throughout the year.
- IV. Ms. Morales, Chair, acknowledged the presence of Carlos Rivera and Sebastian Zuleta who, along with Ms. Katie Gomes, presented the Trustees with pictures and an overview of their time in Washington, D.C.. Mr. DeJesus, who was in the audience, was also recognized as a prime supporter of the work of Special Olympics and Unified ongoing teamwork involved in promoting full inclusion across every aspect of school life. This was a celebration of the deepening efforts in Central Falls to build a vast respect for everyone as we strive for continuous and full equity and access in every sphere of school life.
- V. Approval of the meeting minutes of April 8, 2014 - A motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014, was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Ms. Rosado abstained. Motion carried (6,0,1)
- VI. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget and Facility Improvements - A motion to approve the payment of bills was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion carried (7,0)
- VII. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement. A motion to approve the personnel actions was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (7,0). The following is a record of the names and actions that were read into the record:

NEW HIRES:

Amanda Kugler – Speech and Language Pathologist
Louis Cirello - Science

Rescission – Lay off Letters:

Brian Crookes
Alina Fortes
Jamie Quinn
Hilary Greaves
Stephanie Zuba
Kathleen Bellows
Carmen Ruiz
Erin Preiss
Missy Pendergast
Jacqueline Miller
Ann Marie Gianetti
Karen Drolet
Vanda Vasquez
Elizabeth McLellan
Melanie Simas
Kaitlyn Maigret
Shayla Coleman
Kelly Flynn
Jennifer Sparks
Joanne-Jo Daou
Brian Parmentier

VIII.

Dress Code Adoption: Discussion of uniforms flowed; however, with so few parents in the audience and a report from Dr. Gallo stating clearly that the support for the uniforms had waned, it was clear that the initial fervor for uniforms had diminished. This was made evident by the slow disappearance of the uniforms during the first quarter of the 2013-14 school year. Parents are waiting for the law to require the uniforms. Even after multiple explanations that the wearing of uniforms cannot be required without engaging in a long legal battle, it seems that the parents who are most verbally supportive of wearing uniforms want the schools to require uniforms and enforce an unenforceable law. The Trustees understood the dilemma. A motion was made to table the discussion and any vote approving the policy requiring uniforms until the May 27th

- meeting. This motion was made by Ms. Gonzalez. This was seconded by Mr. Tobon. The Trustees continued to share their feeling of support and frustration with the dilemma. The motion to table carried. (7,0)
- IX. A review and status of Budget 2014 was led by Mr. Edwards. He presented the overview using pie charts which provided a clear pictorial of the salient elements composing the budget and how the district uses its funding. The major outcome was acknowledgement of the absolute dependence of the district on the stabilization funding for a successfully balanced budget for 2015.
- X. Superintendent Comments- Dr. Gallo expressed concerns over the slow movement to fully acquire the building earmarked for the Research Center to be shared with RIC and the district. Dr. Gallo indicated that perhaps the city ought to move to plan B which would mean acquiring a different building to accomplish the same outcome.
- Dr. Gallo noted that the high school seniors were preparing for their final presentations and suggested that the August graduation would be larger than usual if the seniors didn't fully complete their local requirements with their portfolio work.
- Finally, Dr. Gallo spoke of building her schedule for the summer that included home visitations to explain the shift in school grade levels for the 2015-2016 school year. This plan will continue moving forward as long as enrollment remains steady.
- XI. Board Comment –Ms. Grace noted her new participation on the RI Association of School Committee's Board and was congratulated by all. Ms. Cano Morales announced her pleasure in attending the May 3 celebration the Innovation Lab work remarking at the high attendance and the valid presentation of numerous successful and ongoing projects. She also noted the successful work of the journalism students from Roger Williams University under the work of Professor Prado. Finally, Ms. Cano Morales noted that the Dan York Show once again highlighted CFS by hosting an interview with our outstanding senior, Jean-Paul Valencia.
- XII. Next Scheduled Meeting: May 27, 2014 at 6 PM at the Central Falls High School Auditorium.
- XIII. Adjournment – At 8:15 PM motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa.